

Explanation of Author's Purpose and Perspective

LA.910.1.7.2 - The student will analyze the author's purpose and/or perspective in a variety of text and understand how they affect meaning.

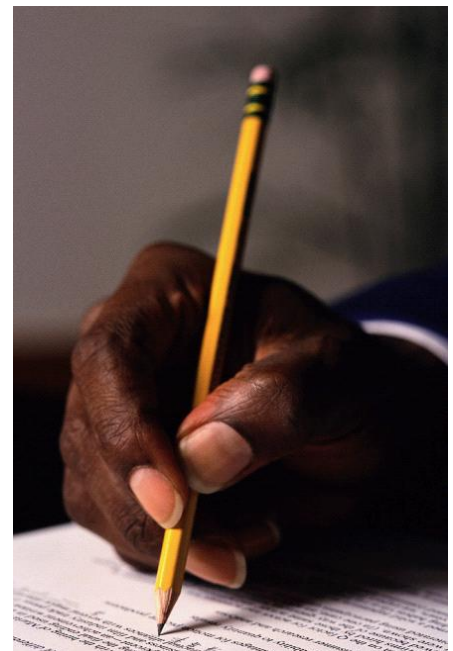
Identify Author's Purpose:

Why Did the Author Write the Selection? Why do you think the author wrote the article? To persuade? To entertain? To inform? To express? Author's purpose is the reason or reasons an author has for writing a selection. If readers enjoyed what they read, one of the author's purposes may have been to entertain. If students learn while they are reading, one of the author's purposes may have been to inform. If readers changed the way they thought about a topic or issue, one of the author's purposes may have been to persuade. Authors may have more than one purpose for writing. Author's purpose can be stated explicitly or readers may have to infer the intent.

Reflective readers are able to analyze information more thoughtfully when they know an author's purpose. Identifying an author's purpose may give you clues for pacing your reading. Readers need to adjust their reading rate for various selections. For example, informational articles may require you to slow down in order to fully understand ideas described.

Questions that help students explore author's purpose:

1. Based on the title, why do think the author wrote this selection?
2. Which words do you think best describe the main reason the author wrote this selection: to provide readers with information? To describe a person, event, or issue? To express their own thoughts and feelings? To persuade readers to think about an issue in a certain way and to take action? Or to entertain the reader?
3. Why did the author write the article from a particular perspective?
4. How did the author influence your response to the selection?
5. Was the author's purpose specifically stated?
6. Do you think that the author achieved his/her intended purposes? Did the article effectively give information? Entertain readers? Express the author's thoughts and feelings? Persuade readers to think about an issue and/or take action?
7. What examples from the text support your conclusions about author's purpose?



Identify Author's Perspective:



What Does the Author Think? Author's perspective is the way an author looks at a topic or the ideas being described. The author's perspective includes the content of the text and the language used to present the data. Thoughtful readers are able to discern an author's perspective, opinions, hypotheses, assumptions, and possible bias. Understanding the author's perspective helps you read analytically in order to identify the validity of information contained in the text. Try to identify words and phrases that show an author's strong feelings for or against a person, group, or issue.

Questions that help students explore author's perspective:

1. What opinions or belief statements are evident in the article?
2. Why do you think the author has this particular opinion or point of view?
3. What background information about the author does the reader have that may help understand the writer's perspective? Would another author have a different perspective depending on his/her background experiences?
4. What pictures does the author paint for a reader?
5. What evidence did the author include to support his or her opinions?
6. What facts were missing?
7. What words and phrases did the author use to present the information?
8. Did the words the author chose have a strong connotation?
9. Why did the author write this selection? Identifying the author's purpose helps you recognize possible perspectives, especially in persuasive writing.